

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

The specification and claims have been amended to correct, and thereby accurately reflect, the water-soluble polymer particle size. In this regard, Applicants have re-analyzed Experiments contained within the original specification, and determined that the correct particle size for the invention water-soluble polymer is properly 1-10  $\mu\text{m}$ . This change is supported by Applicants' own experiments, and thus no new matter is entered. See the attached Declaration of Dr. Volker Braig, which fully supports the amendment correcting the specification and claims, and demonstrates the inherent nature of the correction. No new matter has been entered.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-4 over Sato is traversed. The rejection critically relies upon the assumption, set out at page 4 of the Official Action, that the claimed particle size would be met by the reference inherently. However, this is not the case.

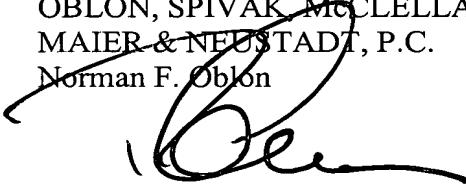
Applicants have repeated the Sato disclosure and determined that the Sato particle size is in fact from 20-100  $\mu\text{m}$  at the several stages of processing disclosed in the reference. In this regard, see the second Declaration of Dr. Braig, attached. Because particle size is an important factor in polymer dispersions having an effect on the stability of such a dispersion,<sup>1</sup> it is clear that the aqueous solution/dispersion disclosed in Sato is distinctly different from that claimed herein.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully submitted.

Finally, Applicants attach hereto a copy of the July 12, 2001, PTO 1449, as requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

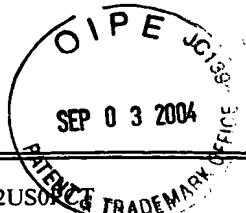
  
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<sup>1</sup> In fact, sedimentation is proportional to the square of the radius of the particles. See pages 3-4 of the second Braig Declaration.



SHEET 1 OF 1

Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 205892US0	SERIAL NO. 09/830,566	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT		Anton NEGELE, et al.		
		FILING DATE May 7, 2001		GROUP 1713		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
<i>JM</i>	AA	5,290,880	03/01/94	Dietmar MOENCH, et al.	<i>Z</i>	
<i>JM</i>	AB	5,720,888	02/24/98	Lawrence Lu KUO, et al.	<i>Z</i>	
	AC					
	AD					
	AE					
	AF					
	AG					
	AH					
	AI					
	AJ					
	AK					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	NO
<i>JM</i>	AL	WO 98/54234	12/03/98	WIPO		
	AM	11-228704	08/24/99	JAPAN		
	AN	10-007722	01/13/98	JAPAN		
	AO	0 510 246	10/28/92	EUROPE		
	AP	09-071659	03/18/97	JAPAN		
	AQ	0 183 466	06/04/86	EUROPE		
	AR	44 30 069	02/29/96	GERMANY		X
	AS	195 32 229	03/06/97	GERMANY		X
	AT	WO 97/30094	08/21/97	WIPO (with English Abstract)		X
	AU	WO 97/34933	09/25/97	WIPO		
	AV					
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)						
<i>JM</i>	AW	Hiroshi UYAMA, et al., Chemical Abstracts, vol. 121, no. 8, AN 1994:484100, August 22, 1994, "DISPERSION POLYMERIZATION OF N-VINYLFORMAMIDE IN POLAR MEDIA. PREPARATION OF MONODISPERSE HYDROPHILIC POLYMER PARTICLES", 1994				
	AX	Hiroshi UYAMA, et al., Chemistry Letters, 1 page, "PREPARATION OF MONODISPERSE POLY(N-VINYLFORMAMIDE) PARTICLES BY DISPERSION POLYMERIZATION IN METHANOL SOLVENT", 1993				
	AY					
	AZ					
Examiner <i>Reddick, J.</i>					Date Considered <i>09/07/02</i>	
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						

*RECEIVED  
JUL 16 2001  
TC 1700*